

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Shin KUWABARA

Serial Number: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 20, 2001

For: NEAR INFRARED ABSORPTION MATERIAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner

For Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

December 27, 2001

Prior to calculation of the fee and examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 3 to read as follows:

3. (Amended) A near infrared absorption material according to Claim 1, wherein the near infrared absorption dye is a dithiol-